

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating David Pomaville on his career. I ask that you join me in wishing David and his family continued success, health and happiness in this new chapter of his life.

JUNE VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's June Veteran of the Month, Joshua Starks.

Joshua Starks faithfully served our country in the United States Army and the Oklahoma National Guard. He was a Combat Outpost Commander in Afghanistan and an Infantry Officer in both the Army and National Guard. Mr. Starks has continued to help others in his community and assist his fellow veterans. His commitment and passion for service speaks volumes about his character.

Mr. Stark's dedication to service is evident through his work in our community. He is the former Post Commander and current Sr. Vice Commander of VFW Post 577. Mr. Starks is also the Tulsa Veteran's Day Parade Chairman. He represents his fellow veterans as a member of the Tulsa Human Rights Commission. Joshua is also involved with the Tulsa Area United Way. In 2019, he was recognized as the 2019 Emerging Leaders Society Volunteer of the Year Award.

He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Joshua Starks as the 1st Congressional District of Oklahoma's June Veteran of the Month.

CONGRATULATING ELAINA KOENIG ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elaina Koenig, from Ethel, Washington for being awarded the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

Every year, the Congressional Award Foundation honors a select number of young Americans with Congress' highest honor—The Congressional Award Gold Medal. The award encourages our youth to set ambitious goals and put in the work and dedication to achieve them.

Elaina completed 800 hours to hone her skills in four areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration activities. Her commitment and dedication to her goals are exactly why Elaina is being recognized for this prestigious award.

Once again, I want to congratulate Elaina on receiving this honor and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 189, NAY on Roll Call No. 190, YEA on Roll Call No. 191, and YEA on Roll Call No. 192.

PIPELINE SAFETY STUDY ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Pipeline Safety Study Act" to direct a National Academy of Sciences study and report to Congress on the vulnerabilities in our oil and natural gas pipeline infrastructure. This bill is based on legislation I cosponsored last Congress with former Congressman Harley Rouda (D-CA-48). I also want to thank the National Society of Professional Surveyors, Subsurface Utility Engineering Association, and U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization for endorsing my bill.

Specifically, the legislation I introduce today would direct the National Academy of Sciences to review current federal regulations for pipeline safety and identify risks to pipelines from earthquakes and climate change-related weather events, whether by their design or their location. The federal guidelines for earthquake-resistant construction of gas and liquid fuel pipelines have not been meaningfully updated since 1992.

Since then, the proliferation of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas has been linked to increasingly frequent earthquakes in states with virtually no prior history of naturally occurring earthquakes. Because California is riddled with active fault lines and has experienced increasingly regular and severe forest fires due to climate change, my home state's energy infrastructure is particularly vulnerable to these threats.

In 2010, eight people died in San Bruno, California when a defective pipeline exploded, but this tragedy was eminently avoidable. Residents had reported smelling a gas leak days ahead of the explosion, and investigators later found evidence of shoddy welds that had rendered the pipeline vulnerable to any number of potential disruptions. While this event was not directly linked to an earthquake and instead caused by shoddy maintenance and failure to replace an antiquated line, the federal government can and must do better to improve pipeline safety.

Madam Speaker, Congress cannot begin to strengthen the safety and resiliency requirements for federally regulated pipelines before we understand the gaps in the government's own outdated regulations and industry practices. The National Academy of Sciences study authorized in my bill would do just that, so that Congress can understand the scope of the problem and begin to legislate the solution.

I thank Chairman DEFAZIO (D-OR) for including my bill in the hazmat title of the "In-

vesting in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act" (H.R. 3684).

REMEMBERING JOHN KLEIN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Klein, who passed on June 20, 2021 in Columbus, Ohio at the age of 72.

John was a passionate family man who treasured his time coaching his two boys in basketball. He was the assistant basketball coach for Belpre High School from 1996 through 2002. Throughout, he also coached all kinds of teams from junior high school to AAU. John would readily admit that his sons' trips to the Ohio High School Athletic Association basketball state tournament were the highlights of his coaching career.

Mr. Klein is a graduate of Aurora High School and Indiana State University. He retired from AEP in 2019 having worked at Zimmer Power Plant, Muskingum River Power Plant, Pickaway Power Plant and the Darby Gas Plant.

John was one of the most caring men you could ever meet with a quirky sense of humor that would have people in stitches. He loved going to the track and playing poker at the casinos. There wasn't a Hallmark movie that John didn't like. He was the ultimate Cincinnati Reds and Bengals fan. Always anticipating the upcoming season.

He was predeceased by his parents, Gene and Lucille Klein, and his sister, Emily Klein.

John is survived by his wife, Theresa, sons, Zach (Jennie) and Patrick (Whitney); grandchildren, Stella and Rocco; and brothers, Dave (Marcia) and Mike (Jill). John also had a myriad of nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

John's love and dedication for his family and for life was something special. Not only did John serve as a devoted coach of basketball, but as a role model for all those he knew, touching many lives along the way. My deepest condolences go out to his dear family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL WANGYEE VANG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel Wangyee Vang. Wangyee passed away on January 18, 2021 after many years of service as a Hmong-Lao and American community leader. Wangyee was a son, a brother, a husband, a father and a friend.

Wangyee was born on November 8, 1947 in Ban Phousabot, Tasseng Phousabot, Muangkham, Province of Xiengkhouang, Laos. In December of 1960, Wangyee was summoned in the army and sent to Hua Hin, Thailand for training as a field radio operator and

parachutist. In January 1963, he was released from the army where he continued to further his education to become a teacher. From 1969 to 1970 Wangyee taught math and science at Samthong College. Later in the summer of 1970, Wangyee was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Defense as Captain for the Special Guerilla Force. He was appointed as the officer liaison and operation assistant with the American Special Officers, received leadership training, and graduated from the Lao National Army Staff School in Vientiane, Laos in 1972.

Wangyee received the Medal of Honor for excellent citizenship from the Majesty of King of Lao, Sri Savang Vathana. In 1973, he returned to the Second Military Region. He transitioned to Major General Yang Pao's team and was appointed as Chief of Personnel Bureau of the First Strike Division Infantry. A year later, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel by King Vathana and awarded the Medal of Honor for courage and nominated as the Chief of Staff for the military's Second Brigade Infantry.

After the fall of Laos in 1975, Wangyee and his family left to Nam Phong, Thailand for refuge. Wangyee saw a need to become an advocate for his people and became the Hmong Refugee Representative from 1977 to 1979. His top priorities were food, medical care, better living conditions and education. He was responsible for the communication with the United Nations and the United States. His advocacy helped lead the United States to begin accepting 25,000 refugees a year starting in 1978.

In 1979, Wangyee and his family left for political refuge in the United States and settled in Huntington Beach, California, then moved to Fresno, California in 1989, where he established the Lao Veterans of America. His many accomplishments include the establishment of the Lao Veterans Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery to honor Hmong and Lao veterans and their American advisors who served in defense of the Kingdom of Laos and U.S. National Security interests during the Vietnam War, and his advocacy of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000.

In the Central Valley, Wangyee was instrumental in the establishment of the Lao Hmong American War Memorial at the Fresno Superior Court. From 2000 to 2008, he was the "Volunteer Expert Team" for former Fresno Mayor Alan Autry. From 2005 to 2012, he was appointed by the Governor of California to be on the Board of Directors for the 21st District Agriculture of Fresno and the Big Fresno Fair.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Lieutenant Colonel Wangyee Vang. Wangyee was a symbol of hard work, dedication and commitment. His influence will live on in the Lao and Hmong community for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call vote. Had

I been present for it, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 191—YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOOD

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 30, 2021 due to travel arrangements. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NO on Roll Call No. 197; NO on Roll Call No. 198; NO on Roll Call No. 199; NO on Roll Call No. 200; NO on Roll Call No. 201; YES on Roll Call No. 202; NO on Roll Call No. 203; and YES on Roll Call No. 204.

I oppose H. Res. 503, "Establishing a Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol" because politicizing justice undermines trust in the rule of law.

Since January 6th, I've called for the full prosecution of anyone who broke the law. The Department of Justice is already working on an investigation that has resulted in hundreds of arrests. In contrast Democrats have spent this time smearing elected Republicans, 74 million Trump voters, and undermining the efforts of our law enforcement. After one failed vote to create a similar commission, Speaker PELOSI is asking the House to vote for a partisan select committee. I oppose this political theater.